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MarineFisheries Advisory
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HELP MarineFisheries IDENTIFY HORSESHOE CRAB SPAWNING BEACHES.

The Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) is seeking the public's assistance in identifying shoreline used as horseshoe crab spawning habitat. Each spring, from late April through June, horseshoe crabs come ashore to lay their eggs. Weather conditions, water temperature and habitat can affect where and when crabs gather. However, spawning generally occurs on evening high tides near the full and new moons. *MarineFisheries* is looking for your help in identifying where horseshoe crabs spawn in Massachusetts waters.

Some scientists believe there may be localized population declines. One of the biggest threats to the horseshoe crab is loss of spawning habitat. Each year more and more horseshoe crab spawning beaches are lost because of development such as new bulkheads, piers and beach nourishment projects.

This spring, if you notice crabs spawning, please note the location (beach, nearby street or other landmark) and contact Frank Germano at (508) 563-1779, xt 123 or e-mail frank.germano@state.ma.us. Your assistance in identifying horseshoe crab spawning beaches will help *MarineFisheries* determine the relative importance of these sites and help us in protecting this important resource in the future.